

# Obituaries

## Peter Bernard Allan Kernoff

An international authority on the treatment of haemophilia

Peter Kernoff published the first description of the bleeding disorder variant von Willebrand's disease. This groundbreaking work, which appeared in 1974 when Peter was based at the Oxford Haemophilia centre, became a citation classic and helped to set in motion many studies elucidating structural, functional, and immunological relationships between factor VIII and von Willebrand factor, and the role of the latter in haemostatic/thrombotic mechanisms.

Inhibitory antibodies to factor VIII remain the biggest challenge for haemophilia treatment. It was as early as 1984, when Peter Kernoff was consultant haematologist at the Royal Free Hospital in London, that he was the lead investigator in a clinical trial using pig factor VIII to treat those patients with these antibodies. Until recently this strategy was the mainstay of treatment and there is no doubt that it saved many lives.

In 1978 he established a bank of stored serum samples from patients, taken at each clinic visit when they were treated with clotting factor concentrate. These samples enabled an enormous amount of epidemiological work to be published on the emerging transfusion transmitted infections of hepatitis and HIV. They helped to establish that unheated concentrates caused non-A, non-B hepatitis (now known as HCV) in 100% of recipients; they provided early information about the prognosis of HIV infection, and Peter played a key role in helping to establish the Royal Free as a centre for HIV treatment.

HIV was a major challenge for all involved in haemophilia—particularly in the early 1980s when so little was known. Peter Kernoff played a major part in the deliberations of the UK Haemophilia Directors Organisation (UKHDO) as its vice chairman—not an easy task, but his judgments were based on a long experience of haemophilia and a sound scientific approach. It was therefore rewarding that he treated the first European patient in the first trials of recombinant factor VIII at the Royal Free Hospital in 1988.

Peter also used his clinical experience of treating patients with factor XI—a rare, inherited bleeding disorder that mainly



affects Ashkenazi Jewish people, many of whom live in north London and attend the Royal Free Hospital—to further the understanding of this disorder with studies on genetics, its clinical manifestations, and treatment with the first factor XI concentrate.

Peter Bernard Allan Kernoff was born in Bushey, Hertfordshire, in 1944, the son of a consultant physician. He was educated at the City of London School and studied medicine at the London Hospital Medical College, qualifying in 1967. He did house jobs in Barnet before joining the Oxford Haemophilia Centre, where he spent his formative professional years.

After completing research on inhibitory antibodies to factor VIII, the clotting factor deficient in people with haemophilia, and working in New York at the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, as assistant professor of medicine, he was appointed consultant haematologist and the first director of the Katharine Dormandy Haemophilia Centre and Haemostasis Unit at London's Royal Free Hospital in 1978.

In 1980 he computerised patient records using a purpose built computer and the services of a dedicated computer programmer. The data provided by this system have underpinned all clinical and much

research work at the centre—one of the largest in Europe—until the present time.

In 1988 Peter Kernoff initiated and led the development of UK NEQAS (the National External Quality Assessment Scheme) for blood coagulation, in which participation by hospital laboratories is a requirement for clinical pathology accreditation and laboratory practice, to include a comprehensive range of laboratory tests for haemostasis. This took NEQAS from its early beginnings limited to quality assessment of INR (international normalised ratio) testing to the much broader scheme that we now have.

Peter was a Department of Health appointed member of the Central Blood Laboratories Authority, secretary to the World Federation of Haemophilia, and vice chairman of the UK Haemophilia Directors Organisation. He was a physician of immense clinical skill and his opinion was widely sought. Many remember him for his career advice and support. However, following a cardiac arrest in 1991 he was tetraplegic for the last 15 years of his life and was unable to work again. He had a tracheostomy and gastrojejunostomy, as he could not swallow and suffered repeated aspiration. Despite his profound physical disability and the virtual loss of his speech, which he recovered to an extent during the first year after his cardiac arrest but lost again because of the effects of jaw fractures, he developed his own unique and powerful system of communication. He was nursed at home from 1993 onwards, and, despite his fragile condition, spent only few and brief periods in hospital.

He leaves a wife, Hannah, also a consultant haematologist. [CHRISTINE LEE, CLIFFORD WELCH, HANNAH KERNOFF]

*Peter Bernard Allan Kernoff, consultant haematologist and first director of the Katharine Dormandy Haemophilia Centre and Haemostasis Unit, Royal Free Hospital, London, 1978-91 (b Bushey, Hertfordshire, 1944; q the London Hospital Medical College 1967; MD, FRCP, FRCPath), died from bronchopneumonia on 27 February 2006.*



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## Peter Alec James Ball



*Former consultant gastroenterologist Middlesex Hospital and natural historian (b 1928; q Cambridge/Middlesex Hospital, London, 1952; MA, MD, FRCP), died from a stroke on 12 February 2006.*

Peter Ball was seconded in 1961 to University College, Ibadan, Nigeria, where he completed his doctorate in parasitology. From 1964 he returned to the Middlesex Hospital as consultant gastroenterologist and general physician. He was postgraduate subdean, researched into nematodes at the Zoological Society, sat on the editorial committees of the *British National Formulary* and the *Prescribers' Journal*, and was assistant registrar and later censor of the Royal College of Physicians. In 1985 he became assistant director, the Wellcome Trust. He later ran a project on undergraduate medical education at the King's Fund. Predeceased in 1991 by his wife, Anne, and a son in infancy, he leaves five children and six grandchildren. [JENIFER BALL, CHRIS HUDSON]

## Erasmus Darwin Barlow

*Former honorary psychiatrist St Thomas's Hospital, London, and businessman (b 1915; q Cambridge/University College Hospital, London, 1941; DPM, FRCPsych), died from renal failure on 2 August 2005.*

Erasmus Barlow was a direct descendant of Charles Darwin through his mother, Emma Nora Darwin. He became senior lecturer and honorary consultant in psychological medicine at St Thomas's Hospital Medical School (1951-66). His roles included being vice chairman of the Mental Health Research Fund; chairman of the Bath Institute of Medical Engineering; and secretary of the Zoological Society of London. He had also at various times been chairman, deputy chairman, and director of several companies. He leaves a wife, Brigit, and two children. [G C Cook]

## Winifred Cornwell (née Drew)

*Former consultant anaesthetist London Chest Hospital (b 1925; q St Mary's Hospital, London, 1948; DA, FRCA), died from complications following radiotherapy for endometrial carcinoma on 6 January 2006.*

Winifred Betty Drew ("Elizabeth") was one of the first two women to go to St Mary's Medical School. She took resident posts in anaesthetics, passing the diploma in 1954. In 1969, after a spell abroad with her husband,



she obtained her FRCA. In 1971 she was the first full time woman consultant appointed to the London Chest Hospital, where her charm and impeccable dress sense earned her the affectionate title of "the duchess." She built a reputation for her work and for the hospital, her ideas and rules giving many a firm foundation for safe practice. [ALISTAIR MARSHALL]

## Richard Gardner



*Former general practitioner Knebworth, Hertfordshire (b 1929; q Cambridge/Westminster Hospital, London 1953; FRCP), died from a heart attack on 3 February 2006.*

Richard joined the then very old fashioned Knebworth Practice in 1958, becoming senior partner in 1968 until he retired in 1989. He was forward thinking and pioneering—the practice was one of the first to have a computer. He became a trainer and was course organiser in the late 1970s, running popular courses for over 25 trainees. He introduced many innovations, which the scheme still benefits from, and remained a trainer until his retirement. In 1985 he was made a fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners. Divorced from his first wife, he leaves his second wife, two daughters by his first wife, and three grandchildren. [JANET GRAY, ELIZABETH DOBIE]

## Haris Dias Jayasundere

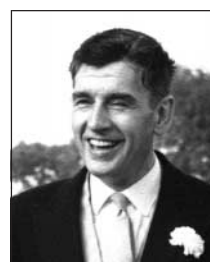
*Former consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist Lewisham and Colombo (b 1938; q Colombo, Sri Lanka, 1966; FRCOG), died from a heart attack in December 2005.*

Haris Jayasundere worked in the health service in Colombo, Sri Lanka, until he came to the United Kingdom in 1972. He trained in gynaecology and obstetrics at West Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St Edmunds, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. He was appointed consultant in gynaecology and obstetrics to Aden Refinery Hospital, Yemen,



and he was then senior registrar and locum consultant at Lewisham General Hospital. In 1981 he established a successful private consultant practice in Colombo, working until he had a stroke in 1995. He leaves a wife, Suranganie, and a son. [REMY PERUMAL]

## David Rowland Jones



*Former general practitioner Barnes and Hammersmith, London (b 1925; q The London Hospital 1950; DOBst RCOG), died from myeloma on 15 November 2005.*

Rowley Jones began to study medicine in 1943, but his training was interrupted by tuberculous peritonitis due, he was convinced, to drinking unpasteurised milk. After prolonged immobilisation, he recovered and returned to a full student life, becoming active in sport and rowing for The London. After qualification he gained experience as a ship's surgeon, and then moved into general practice. He was also occupational health physician for the staff of Charing Cross Hospital. Predeceased by his son, he leaves a wife, Paula; a daughter; and three grandchildren. [EIRA HOOPER, JOHN W THOMPSON]

## Walter Rostron Price

*General practitioner Rowley Regis, and hospital practitioner Dudley (b 1941; q Birmingham 1974; FRCP), d 18 February 2006.*

Ross Price came to medicine from a background in metallurgy, his PhD thesis on high temperature oxidation contributing to the operation of Magnox nuclear reactors. He was a founder member and trainer in the teaching practice of Regis House, Sandwell, and forged close links with neighbouring hospitals in Birmingham and Dudley. In 1981 he pioneered the open access endoscopy service in Dudley and Stourbridge Hospitals. He coauthored publications on the early detection of colorectal cancer—the basis for the rapid access diagnostic service—and was a founder member of the Primary Care Society for Gastroenterology. He leaves a wife, Frances. [ADRIAN HAMLYN]